

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 201331Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7587

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS VIENNA 0426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: MEETING OF WORLD UNION OF LIBERALS IN VIENNA

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WORLD UNION OF LIBERALS (WUL), WHICH IS COMPOSED OF LIBERAL PARTIES AS WELL AS LIBERAL GROUPINGS, MET IN VIENNA JANUARY 17-18 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER GASTON THORN. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY 40 PERSONS, CONSISTING OF DELEGATIONS FROM NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, DENMARK, ITALY, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, FRANCE, ISRAEL AND AUSTRIA. AUSTRIAN DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO BONN WILFRIED GREDLER WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF AUSTRIAN LIBERAL GROUP SINCE AUSTRIAN FREEDOM PARTY (FPO) IS NOT MEMBER OF WUL.

2. ASIDE FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL

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QUESTIONS, MAIN AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNED CONTACTS OF WUL

WITH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, PREPARATIONS FOR WUL WORLD CONGRESS IN BRUSSELS IN SEPTEMBER AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECISIONS IN HELSINKI CSCE DOCUMENT. APPLICATION OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE LIBERALS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WUL, SITUATION IN INDIA AND UN ZIONISM RESOLUTION WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

3. ACTION TAKEN BY WUL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INCLUDED GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO WUL TO SPANISH LIBERAL PARTY (PPD) AND SETTING UP OF SPECIAL WUL COMMITTEE TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECISIONS CONTAINED IN HELSINKI ACCORD.

4. IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 17, THORN INDICATED WUL IS SEEKING CLOSER COOPERATION OF WUL WITH ALL LIBERAL PARTIES AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, WILL HOLD MEETING IN STUTTGART AT END OF MARCH TO ESTABLISH FEDERATION OF LIBERAL PARTIES. ALSO PLANNED IS CONGRESS OF LIBERALS IN 1977 TO APPROVE EUROPEAN PROGRAM FOR FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

5. AS REGARDS FPO CHAIRMAN FRIEDRICH PETER AND CONTROVERSY OVER HIS MEMBERSHIP IN NOTORIOUS SS UNIT IN WORLD WAR II, CHAIRMAN THORN STATED MATTER PRESENTED NO PROBLEM TO MEETING SINCE PETER IS NOT MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THORN ADDED THAT WUL AS SUCH HAD NOT REACTED TO CHARGES MADE AGAINST PETER SINCE AUSTRIAN LIBERAL GROUP ITSELF HAD CONCLUDED CHARGES WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

6. ON BROADER ISSUE OF FUTURE OF LIBERALS, THORN OBSERVED THAT WORLD WAS SEEKING NEW ORDERING OF SOCIETY WHICH OFFERED, IN THORN VIEW, OPPORTUNITY FOR RENAISSANCE OF LIBERALISM SINCE CONSERVATISM WAS OUTDATED AND SOCIALISM HAS EITHER TAKEN ON TRAPPINGS OF LIBERALISM OR IS THREATENED WITH BEING OVERRUN BY PARTIES FURTHER TO LEFT. BUCHANAN

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